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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT

Czechoslovak Uranium Production

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1. Great efforts are being made to increase uranium production in the Jachymov area. At the end of 1952 there were 17 uranium mines in this area. Early in 1953 this figure was brought up to twenty.
2. The mines are under Soviet management. The Soviet staff is in the building of the radium bath of Sv Jachymov. The Soviet head is Engineer Krasnov. The Czech technical general director is named Siminsky, but it is generally believed he is not a Czech at all, only another Soviet.
3. About 70,000 laborers worked in the area, a figure which was brought up by 5,000 to 6,000 in the months from March to May 1953. Of this figure, 30,000 are compulsory laborers, who are given the most dangerous tasks. They lived in wooden barracks in a camp surrounded by a double barbed wire fence. At each corner of the area are observation towers with searchlights.
4. The whole area is closely guarded by the state security service; 12,000 to 14,000 of them being employed.
5. There were formerly light metal and silver mines in this area, and quantities of material dug up was discarded as useless. More recently it has been discovered that these residues contained uranium in quantities that made them especially easy to exploit. The preparation of this raw material is carried on in the Bratrstvi factory, the largest in Jachymov.
6. In handling this material the ores are cut in pieces of two kg. They are ground on the fourth floor of the factory, and reground to powder on the second floor, mixed with water and passed through an area where mud and sand are removed. After drying they are pressed into bricks for transport to the USSR, no further preparation being done in Czechoslovakia.
7. A Czech state research commission discovered traces of uranium at Liberec in April 1953. The area was immediately closed off by police. The first drillings took place near the city hospital, where a large private villa was seized for the use of a Soviet research commission.
8. Prospecting for uranium has been going on for some time in the Trutnov area. In 1952 new mines were opened and a new road to the district was built.

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9. Another important uranium area is near Bohumin, where 1,000 men were employed in prospecting at the beginning of 1953. The results have been so good that a barracks complex consisting of 36 buildings was built for laborers and a second barracks complex was begun in July 1953. A railroad spur has been constructed, connecting with the Trutnov-Nachod line.

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